

## Message Text

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62

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE, CU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ DESCRIBES VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY IN  
NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN HIS LENGTHY NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS AT CIUDAD GUYANA WHICH CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON THE NATIONALIZATION OF VENEZUELA'S IRON MINES, PRESIDENT PEREZ REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND TO CONDUCT AN ACTIVIST, OUTSPOKEN FOREIGN POLICY DESIGNED TO EXPAND VENEZUELA'S RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL OUTLOOK. RECOGNITION OF CUBA IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS POLICY. THE GOV WILL CONTINUE TO HONOR ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, BUT WILL REJECT FOREIGN "THREATS." END SUMMARY

1. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF HIGHLIGHTS OF PEREZ'S COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE OUTSIDE OF VENEZUELA, IN LATIN AMERICA AND IN THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE GROUPED UNDER THE NAME OF THE THIRD WORLD, THE POLITICAL AND MORAL POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT IS VIEWED WITH INCREASING SYMPATHY...I HAVE INSISTED THAT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE WEAK AND THE POWERFUL BE REPLACED BY COOPERATION, UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND COUNTRIES. THIS HAS LED ME, IN ACCORDANCE

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WITH THE CONSTITUTION, TO EXPRESS FRANK OPINIONS ON INTERNATIONAL

POLITICS, WITHOUT HOSTILITY BUT WITH FIRMNESS IN VIEW OF OUTSIDE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY AFFECT VENEZUELA AND LATIN AMERICA... VENEZUELA HAS IMPLEMENTED AN ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL POLICY WHICH IT SEEKS CONSTANTLY TO EXPAND AND WHICH HAS LED ME TO HOLD DIRECT MEETINGS WITH SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE; AND NOW WE WILL MEET WITH OUR CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS. WE HAVE GIVEN PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF A NEW CONCEPT OF FRATERNITY AND SOLIDARITY AMONG PEOPLES WHICH AT THE SAME TIME GIVES EXPRESSION TO THE REPUDIATION WE FEEL FOR ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION, SUBMISSION AND HUMILIATIONS TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SUBJECT DURING OUR EXISTENCE AND INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS.

VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT AIMED AT USING OIL OR IRON AS INSTRUMENTS OF CONFRONTATION OR RETALIATION...WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO BE SO IN FULFILLING COMMITMENTS AND FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY. BUT WE CANNOT SACRIFICE OUR DIGNITY TO AGREEMENTS WHICH CANNOT BE CLEARLY EXPRESSED TO THE COUNTRY, AND WE REJECT THREATS OR DISCRIMINATIONS FROM ABROAD...

VENEZUELA WANTS TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD, MAINTAIN RELATIONS, AND CARRY OUT POLICIES OF RAPPROCHEMENT, ESPECIALLY IN OUR REGION. RECENTLY, AT THE INVITATION OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, CONVERSATIONS WERE HELD AND CONTACTS MADE THROUGH OUR REPRESENTATIVES AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND IT WAS DECIDED TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA. WE ARE BEING CONSISTENT WITH THE DECLARED PRINCIPLES OF THE BASIC ORIENTATION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL AND LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. WE ASPIRE AND WANT TO COOPERATE IN CREATING A WORLD OF SOLIDARITY AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH, WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS, WHATEVER MAY BE THEIR POLITICAL OR SOCIAL SYSTEM. RELATIONS WITH CUBA ARE THE CONSEQUENCE OF THESE AIMS AND OF THE COURSE WHICH RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS...

IN ITS RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICAN OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE WORLD, VENEZUELA IS GUIDED BY THE SAME IDEAS AND PRINCIPLES OF PLURALISM WHICH IT APPLIES IN ITS DOMESTIC AFFAIRS...THE DECISION RESPECTING CUBA...EXPRESSES OUR DESIRE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND COOPERATE FOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES AS WELL AS OUR OBJECTIVE OF SMOOTHING THE PATHS NECESSARY TO HASTEN AND TO SHORTEN THE DISTANCE TO UNDERSTANDING AND THE INTEGRATION OF LATIN AMERICA.

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MY GOVERNMENT, AS AN AUTHENTIC EXPONENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, WILL MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT REGIMES OR POLITICAL STYLES, CONSCIOUS AS WE ARE OF THE ESSENTIAL DIVERSITY OF THE WORLD.

IN ALL DIPLOMATIC INTERCOURSE VENEZUELA NEVERTHELESS WANTS ITS RESPECT FOR OTHER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT OR FOR OTHER STYLES TO BE

RECIPROCATED BY THE CONSIDERATION WHICH ITS OWN DESERVES WITHOUT  
ANY INVIDIOUS ANIMUS OR IRRITATING RIVALRIES. UNQUOTE

2. COMMENT: NO NEW DEPARTURES ARE FEATURED IN THIS LATEST  
DESCRIPTION OF VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY.  
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